

BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1970

W.C.V. BROTHWOOD

Medical Officer of Health

D.B. MILLS

Chief Public Health Inspector



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BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Miss C.J. Vigar

Vice-Chairman

Mr. J. Webb

Miss L.R. Gurney

Mr. F.N. Sparrow

Mr. V. Abraham

Mr. S.C. Keep

Mr. P.S. Burman

Mr. R. Fleming

Mr. F.E.H. Brooker

Mr. D.N. Hartwell

Mr. A.W. Carter

Mr. C.H. Simmonds

Mr. D.H. Commins

Mr. P.C. Smith

Mr. V.R. Cartwright

Mr. V.J. Wisson (Chairman of the Council - ex-officio)

Mr. A.N. Polhill (Vice-Chairman of the Council - ex-officio)

Mr. E.W. Stratford (Immediate past Chairman of the Council -  
ex-officio)

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

W.C.V. Brothwood, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., (from 1/6/70)

Chief Public Health Inspector

D.B. Mills, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

E. Young, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 31/8/70)

P. Hodges, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., (from 8/10/70)

Additional Public Health Inspector

A.R. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I., (from 1/2/70)

Public Health Assistant

J.N. Cox

Clerk-Typist

Mrs. C.J. Kirk (transferred 1/10/70)

Mrs. T. Ward (from 28/9/70)



TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1970, during the first five months of which my predecessor held office.

The Vital Statistics compare favourably with those of England and Wales, and the Administrative County. It is very gratifying that yet again there was no maternal death in connection with childbirth.

It is usual for large fluctuations to occur in the number of annual notifications of certain infectious diseases. Thus the year 1970 had many less cases of measles, but appreciably more of whooping cough. Once again, however, there were no cases of diphtheria.

The Causes of Death table repeats the familiar pattern of a large number of deaths due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, to respiratory diseases and to malignant growths.

A short reference is made in the text of the Report to the Vaccination & Immunisation Service provided by the Local Health Authority. There are several other important services provided by that Authority in the District, all of which have a beneficial influence on the health and welfare of its residents. I acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation I have received from the officers of that Authority in matters of mutual concern.


I am grateful to the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me and to members of the Staff for their ready co-operation. In particular, I thank Mr. D.B. Mills who has written most of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W.C.V. BROTHWOOD

Medical Officer of Health



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# BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

### OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### FOR 1970

#### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	110,281
Population -					
Census for 1961	...	...	...	...	33,725
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1970	...	...	...	...	36,840
Number of inhabited houses		...	...	...	12,180
Rateable value at 1st April 1970		...			£1,688,122
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate at 1st April 1970	...	...	...	...	£6820

#### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

##### LIVE BIRTHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	292	298	590
Illegitimate	...	...	18	10	28
Totals	...		310	308	618

Crude Birth Rate ... 16.8 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Birth Rate 16.5 " " " "

(The comparability factor for the District being 0.98)

As compared with:-

Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire 17.7 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for England and Wales ... 16.0 " " " "

##### STILL BIRTHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	-	1	1
Totals	...		1	2	3

Still Birth Rate 5 per 1,000 total (live and still births)

As compared with:-

Rate for Bedfordshire 8.7 per 1,000 (live and still births)

Rate for England and Wales 13.0 " " " " " "

VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

		<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	...	...	106	126	232
Transferred into the District		...	101	73	174
Transferred from the District		...	25	24	49
Totals		...	182	175	357
<hr/>					
Crude Death Rate	...	9.7 per 1,000 home population.			
Adjusted Death Rate	...	9.2 " " " "			

(The comparability factor for the District being 0.95)

As compared with:-

Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire	10.2 per 1,000 home population
Rate for England and Wales ...	11.7 " " " "

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER  
ONE YEAR OF AGE

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	4	3	7
Illegitimate	...	...	-	1	1
Totals		...	4	4	8

Infant Mortality Rate ... 13 per 1,000 related live births.

As compared with:-

Rate for Bedfordshire	...	15.9 per 1,000 related live births
Rate for England and Wales	...	18 " " " "

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality ... ... NIL

Cause of Death	Total all ages M F	Under 4 weeks M F	4 weeks & under 1 year M F	Age in years								65-74 M F	75 & over M F						
				1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34				35-44		45-54		55-64	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			M	F	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	4		
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	3	6	2	-	-		
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	2		
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-		
Other malignant neoplasms	14	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	7	2	2	4	1	3		
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
Diabetes mellitus	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2		
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
Anaemias	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
Other diseases of blood, etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
Mental disorders	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Multiple sclerosis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Other diseases of nervous system	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	1	-		
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-		
Hypertensive disease	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	-		
Ischaemic heart disease	47	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	12	4	14	13	15	17		









ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH(a) Water Supply

Adequate supplies of water have been maintained throughout the District by the Bedfordshire Water Board. The Bedford Rural District, in general, is supplied from the Bedford River Ouse Source. However, the Parish of Wymington receives a water supply from the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board, and the Parish of Great Barford and parts of Wilstead, Eastcotts and Staploe are supplied from the Great Ouse Water Authority's Grafham Source.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RAW AND TREATED WATER FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1971

	Raw Water		Treated Water	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Turbidity (A.T.U.)	6 - 130	20	Nil - 5.0	0.5
Colour (Hazen Units)	4 - 66	18	1 - 15	5
Reaction pH	7.71 - 8.82	8.04	7.07 - 8.13	7.66
Electric Conductivity (Reciprocal Megohms per ml at 20°C)	490 - 870	715	500 - 880	705
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil - 1.00	0.13	nil - 0.96	nil*
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.14 - 0.91	0.32	0.10 - 0.40	0.18
Nitrite and Nitrate Nitrogen	1.6 - 13.0	5.8	1.9 - 12.9	5.7
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	1.5 - 7.0	2.8	0.6 - 2.3	1.1
Anionic Detergent	0.02 - 0.20	0.11	0.02 - 0.12	0.07
Chloride as Cl	24 - 63	46	30 - 72	54
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	278 - 422	358	266 - 410	335
Total Hardness degrees Clark	19 - 30	25	19 - 29	23
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	132 - 250	215	94 - 220	167
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	92 - 200	143	117 - 244	168
Calcium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	250 - 386	325	250 - 376	302
Magnesium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	20 - 46	33	24 - 46	33
Free Carbon Dioxide	-	4	-	7
Fluoride as F	0.15 - 0.30	0.21	0.09 - 0.23	0.16
Sodium as Na	11 - 59	29	11 - 57	29
Potassium as K	4 - 11	7	4 - 11	7
Iron as Fe	0.14 - 4.48	0.61	Nil - 0.28	0.05
Lead/Copper/Zinc	-	Nil	-	Nil
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub>	2 - 19	7.3	1 - 12	4.9
Orthophosphate as PO <sub>4</sub>	0.55 - 4.4	1.8	Nil - 0.70	0.16
Chlorophyll A in mg per m <sup>3</sup>	1 - 147	17.5		
Algae cells per ml	3 - 55,000	4,950		
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	109 - 182	140	122 - 189	152

Results in Milligrammes per Litre

\* Ammonia was present in the treated water only when sterilisation depended on chloramination i.e. for 3 days only.





### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Sodium as Na	11 - 59	29	11 - 57	29
Potassium as K	4 - 11	7	4 - 11	7
Iron as Fe	0.14 - 4.48	0.61	Nil - 0.28	0.05
Lead/Copper/Zinc	-	Nil	-	Nil
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub>	2 - 19	7.3	1 - 12	4.9
Orthophosphate as PO <sub>4</sub>	0.55 - 4.4	1.8	Nil - 0.70	0.16
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Algae cells per ml	3 - 55,000	4,950		
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	109 - 182	140	122 - 189	152

Results in Milligrammes per Litre

\* Ammonia was present in the treated water only when sterilisation depended on chloramination i.e. for 3 days only.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

Work on a new sewerage scheme for the villages of Duloe and Staploe is now under way and schemes for Chawston, Wilden and Wyboston are in preparation. The scheme for the latter village will provide for the effluent from the slaughterhouse in the village as well as removing a number of domestic drainage problems. The need for main drainage in the eight small parishes still without these facilities has not diminished.

(c) Rivers and Streams

Evidence of pollution of watercourses may still be found particularly in the few remaining unsewered villages in the district and is often due to unauthorised discharges from inadequate domestic drainage systems. The provision of main drainage offers the only real permanent solution to most of these problems but the Council's decision to provide an additional free cesspool emptying per year and also to offer additional emptying facilities where possible on payment should give some measure of relief to the pollution problem.

(d) Public Cleansing

A system of domestic refuse collection on a weekly basis utilising paper sacks as liners in purpose-made bins has been introduced throughout the whole of the district in place of the normal dustbin. This new method of refuse collection provides a far more hygienic service than the skip system formerly in operation which should be appreciated by the householders. The paper sack system also improves the working conditions for the refuse collectors.

In spite of the special collection services provided by the Council for other unwanted rubbish and the availability of disposal facilities at the Council's refuse tip, the indiscriminate tipping of this rubbish in the countryside is still carried out by householders and others on quite an extensive scale. The problem is general throughout the County and gave rise to a county conference of local authorities and other interested organisations being convened. A steering committee is now examining the whole problem.

(e) Closet Accommodation

The compulsory powers available under the Public Health Act 1936 to secure pail closet conversions have not been invoked as it has generally been possible to persuade owners to avail themselves of improvement grants available and conversion works have been carried out voluntarily. The number of pail closets is declining steadily but it is desirable to proceed with the task of securing the conversions as quickly as possible.

(f) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following list gives the statistics relative to the sanitary inspection of the area:-

Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	5228
Visits to houses under the Public Health Acts	...	...	221
Visits to other premises under the Public Health Acts	...	...	228
Visits to houses under the Housing Acts	...	...	934
Infectious disease and food poisoning investigations	...	...	60
Visits to food premises	...	...	404
Inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	4
Inspections of knacker's yards	...	...	2
Inspections of meat and other foodstuffs	...	...	732
Factory inspections	...	...	8
Visits to caravan sites	...	...	53
Smoke abatement	...	...	16
Inspections of licensed premises	...	...	64



(f) Sanitary Inspection of the Area (continued)

Visits in connection with the Rent Act 1957	...	...	NIL
Inspections in connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	...	...	2372
Offices and Shops	...	...	54
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act	...	...	70
Noise abatement	...	...	6

Inspections of Houses under Public Health Act 1936

Water Supply	...	...	49
Defects prejudicial to health or a nuisance	...	...	38
Defective or blocked drains	...	...	41
Overflowing or leaking cesspools	...	...	41
Defective or insanitary closet accommodation	...	...	NIL
Filthy or verminous premises	...	...	NIL
Sundry Visits	...	...	52

Inspections of other premises and places under the  
Public Health Act 1936

Refuse Tips	...	...	17
Ditches and streams	...	...	68
Licensed premises	...	...	64
Places of public entertainments (Village Halls)	...	...	12
Water Samples	...	...	16
Keeping of Animals	...	...	9
Accumulations	...	...	40
Sundry nuisances	...	...	NIL
Swimming Pools	...	...	2

Summary of matters dealt with under the Public  
Health Act 1936

Informal Notices served	...	...	11
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	9
Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	1

(g) Smoke Abatement

The indiscriminate burning of rubbish on a private refuse tip and also the burning of car bodies created smoke nuisances which resulted in a warning being issued on each occasion. The common practice of car breakers of setting fire to car bodies as a quick means of stripping the vehicles of their non-metallic parts will always create a smoke problem and it is apparent that the trade will have to employ other methods for disposing of these materials.

(h) Caravan Sites

The residential caravan sites are generally well maintained and the standard of accommodation offered by this type of dwelling continues to improve as older caravans are replaced by the completely self-contained mobile homes. These new units of accommodation are often appreciably bigger than those replaced and it is necessary to ensure that an adequate space is still maintained around each caravan.

It is becoming more apparent that at least one permanent site should be provided within the district to accommodate gypsy caravans which are parked on road verges from time to time. It was thought that a transit site would contain the problem of the migrating gypsies but there is now a tendency for these people to remain on road verge sites on a semi-permanent basis. The lack of basic sanitary facilities on these verge sites gives cause for concern for the welfare of the gypsies and problems also arise where these sites are in close proximity to dwellings.

A successful prosecution was taken against an occupier who was permitting land to be used as a caravan site without a site licence but did not resolve the problem of the continued unauthorised use of the site.

(h) Caravan Sites (continued)

Number of residential sites with more than three vans	...	...	6
Number of individual residential sites	...	...	10
Number of recreational sites	...	...	5

(i) Rats and Mice - Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council employ one Rodent Officer who is responsible for the survey of the area and for treatment of domestic premises in which rats and mice are found. The treatment of domestic premises is carried out as a free service.

Agricultural land and premises are also surveyed to ensure that the occupiers are fulfilling their obligations under the Act.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken by the end of the year:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(A) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	692	4
Number infested by (1) Rats	217	2
(2) Mice	85	3
Revisits to premises under (A)	936	NIL
(B) Total number of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	248	110
Number infested by (1) Rats	93	26
(2) Mice	2	7
Revisits to premises under (B)	283	51
(C) Visits to premises for other pests	48	NIL

(j) Swimming Pools

One swimming pool is in use in the area. The pool is privately owned but members of the public are admitted at certain times of the week.

Routine bacteriological tests of the water have revealed that a satisfactory standard has been maintained in the pool.

(k) Noise

It was not necessary to invoke the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act during the year. The problem of aircraft noise is outside the scope of this Act.

(l) Farms

Routine inspections of sanitary accommodation for farmworkers have been made at agricultural units and permanent facilities improved where necessary.

Number of visits to agricultural units	...	...	70
--	-----	-----	----

4. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat Inspection

Number of slaughterhouses licensed	...	...	4
Number of knacker's yards licensed	...	...	1



(a) Meat Inspection (continued)

Most of the slaughtering is carried out at one slaughterhouse which is in constant daily use. The other three establishments slaughter only on a small scale. There was again a sizeable increase in the output at the main slaughterhouse and whilst there are indications that this trend will continue the present slaughtering facilities will only permit a further limited expansion of output. The continued use of the premises at near capacity output does give rise to very heavy wear and tear on the facilities and the need for constant maintenance and repairs to be carried out.

Although there was an increase in throughput of animals slaughtered the total weight of meat and offal condemned showed a welcome decrease. A contributory factor to this decrease would appear to be that fewer obviously sick animals are being sent to the slaughterhouse. Adequate facilities exist at the Knacker's Yard within the district for dealing with animals where it is apparent that they will not be acceptable for human consumption.

Number of animals inspected	...	...	...	15,614
Number of visits made for meat inspection			...	732
Total weight of meat and offal rejected	...	...	...	20,894 lbs.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle EXCLUDING Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected	1573	292	290	2554	10905	15614
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	10	14	6	28	60
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	243	109	4	79	583	1018
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.5	40.7	6.2	3.3	5.6	6.9
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	110	110
Percentage of the number inspected affected by tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.01	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	2
Generalised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

(b) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises being operated within the district.

(c) Milk Supply

Routine control by bacteriological and chemical samplings of milk and also the supervision of milk processing plants is carried out by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. This Authority is also responsible for the issue of all dealers' milk licences.

(d) Food Premises

Routine inspections of food premises and catering establishments have revealed that a reasonable standard of hygiene is being generally maintained. It was necessary, however, to deal with an unsatisfactory transport cafe. This matter was resolved by the owner voluntarily closing the premises instead of complying with the Notices served.

Catering in public houses appears to be becoming more popular and it is essential to ensure that the kitchen and preparation rooms are adequate for the type of trade carried out.

The need for food retailers to safeguard the shelf-life of perishable foods is a matter which requires their constant attention. Virtually all wrapped perishable foods carry a manufacturer's date code but it is highly desirable for the retailer to have his own system to ensure adequate stock rotation and withdrawal of out of date foodstuffs. The practice of some retailers of leaving this matter in the hands of the van salesman should not be encouraged.

Refrigerator failures were the major reason for 358 lbs. of unsound food being voluntarily surrendered to the Department.

The following complaints of unsound or unsatisfactory food were investigated:-

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Foreign body in toffee         | Purchased in Northampton - referred to Northampton Corporation.    |
| 2. Mould in packeted apple pie    | Investigation made - letter to manufacturer regarding date coding. |
| 3. Foreign body in minced beef    | Investigation made - warning letter to vendor.                     |
| 4. Beetle in steak and kidney pie | Investigation made. Inconclusive evidence. Letter to manufacturer. |
| 5. "Unfit" skinless sausages      | Investigation made. Sausages not unfit. Letter to complainant.     |

Food Premises in the area:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Grocery & General Stores	86
Butchers	10
Restaurants, Cafes & Canteens	19
Greengrocery	9
Sweet Confectionery	11
Wet/Fried Fish Shops	2
Bakehouses	4
Ice Cream Retailers	82
Licensed Premises	99
Slaughterhouses	4

(e) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955

Ice Cream Retailers	...	...	82
Sausage and/or Meat Product Manufacturers	...	...	9



## Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958

The occupier of every knacker's yard is required to submit an annual return showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered; and the total number of horses received during that year. There is one knacker's yard in the area.

Knacker's Yard occupier	...	...	Chettle & Sons Ltd.
Address of Licensed Knacker's Yard	...		Goosey Lodge, Wymington.
Number of Horses slaughtered at Knacker's Yard	...	...	NIL
Number of horses slaughtered on Farms			6
Number of carcasses of Horses received			28
Total number of horses slaughtered and carcasses received	...	...	34

## Housing

The improvement grant schemes continue to provide a major contribution in the task of upgrading the standards of housing accommodation and in preserving older houses. A number of Conservation Areas have also been proposed for the district where again one of the objects is to secure preservation and renovation of dwellings. The improvement grant schemes will obviously play a useful contribution in helping to achieve the objectives of the Conservation Areas but preliminary surveys have indicated that this contribution might not be as extensive as was possibly envisaged. Keeping properties in good repair is an essential feature of a Conservation Area if it is to be effective and the grant schemes only offer financial aid for these repairs under certain restricted conditions. The use of compulsory powers to secure the repair of dwellings is a factor which will have to be given serious consideration if the decay of older houses is to be halted although such a course might have serious financial implications for owners.

The Qualification Certificate procedure now available for owners of controlled properties to take them out of rent control and to secure a "fair rent", has produced a fair response. It has been found, however, that only a small proportion of the properties where a certificate has been applied for meet the full requirements of having all the basic amenities and being in a satisfactory state of repair. It is hoped that the owners of those properties falling short of the essential requirements will be prompted into carrying out the necessary works by the prospect of subsequent higher rents.

Number in inhabited houses	...	...	...	12,180
Number of houses erected by private enterprise during the year	...	...	...	323
Number of conversions and adaptations completed by private enterprise	...	...	...	-
Number of conversions and adaptations completed by the Council	...	...	...	-
Number of units erected by the Council	...	...		78

## Inspections of Dwelling Houses under the Housing Act 1957

Housing Survey Visits	...	...	524
Number of unfit houses inspected	...	...	10

Remedy of defects during the year without service of  
Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	25
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1957:-  |     |
| 1. Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs                      | NIL |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-                      |     |
| (a) by owners ... ..  | 1   |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners   | NIL |
| B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... ..  | NIL |
| C. Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act 1957:-  |     |
| 1. Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..                         | 5   |
| 2. Number of Dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..                            | 9   |
| D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957 to secure closure of part of a building ...         | NIL |
| E. Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act 1957 in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 1   |

Housing Acts 1949 - 1969, Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants

Number of inspections ... ..	122
Applications approved ... ..	44
Number of houses concerned ... ..	47
Applications refused ... ..	1
Applications withdrawn ... ..	NIL
Improvements completed ... ..	24
New units of accommodation provided ... ..	NIL

Standard Grants

Number of inspections ... ..	121
Applications approved ... ..	45
Number of houses concerned ... ..	45
Applications refused ... ..	NIL
Applications withdrawn ... ..	2
Improvements completed ... ..	45

Compulsory Improvements

Number of representations made by tenants ...	NIL
Number of preliminary notices served ...	NIL
Number of immediate improvement notices served ...	NIL
Number of dwellings improved ... ..	1

Qualification Certificates

Number of applications received ... ..	131
Number of Certificates issued ... ..	43
Number of Provisional Certificates issued ...	1
Number of Visits ... ..	157



7. Offices and Shops

A number of minor contraventions have been found and largely rectified during routine visits to offices and shops.

No accidents were reported during the year.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	1	27	2
Retail Shops	4	55	27
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	NIL	1	NIL
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	NIL	7	2
Fuel Storage depots	NIL	1	NIL

Number of visits to Registered Premises ... 54

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices ... ..	258
Retail shops ... ..	133
Wholesale departments, warehouses ... ..	2
Catering establishments open to the public ... ..	42
Canteens ... ..	33
Fuel storage depots ... ..	1
TOTAL ...	469
Total males	213
Total females	256

No exemption for covering working space, room temperatures, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities was granted.

Number of prosecutions instituted ... .. NIL

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act ... .. 3

8. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

DISEASE	NOTIFICATIONS BY AGE GROUP				
	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Age unknown	Total
Measles	57	76	1	1	135
Dysentery	-	2	2	-	4
Scarlet fever	2	15	1	3	21
Whooping cough	14	21	1	-	36
Infective jaundice	-	1	1	-	2
Food poisoning	-	-	3	-	3
Acute meningitis	1	-	-	-	1

9. Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-35 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-65 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary	...	...	...	23	12
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	-	13

Mass Radiography

A mobile x-ray unit, provided by the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board, visits the Market Place, Bedford, each Thursday, from 2.15 to 3.45 p.m. and during this period patients sent by general practitioners can be x-rayed.

10. National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who are unable to look after themselves. This section was not used in 1970.

11. Cleansing of Verminous Persons

Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 refers principally to school children with head lice infestations and these are dealt with by the Health Visitors as a matter of routine.

12. Factories

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1961.

Factories (continued)

PART I OF THE ACT

(a) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) -

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	90	8	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	-	-	-
TOTALS	98	8	-	-

(b) Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

<u>PARTICULARS</u>	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(c) OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		P R O S E C U T I O N S
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	
Wearing apparel - making etc.	16	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	16	-	-	-	-	-

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